



NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Volume 9 - Number 4
June 1959
Cumulative No. 41

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Member Meeting of the Nature Conservancy will be held at University Park (formerly State College, Pa.) in connection with the annual session of the Institute of Biological Sciences (A.I.B.S.) which runs from Sunday, August 30, to Friday, September 4, 1959. Our arrangements are in the hands of Dr. Ward Sharp of the Zoological Department of Pennsylvania State University.

The Annual Meeting of the Conservancy will be held on Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1. The Board of Governors will meet Monday morning and again at night. Conservancy members will meet for lunch at noon. This will be followed by the annual business meeting of the Conservancy including the election of new officers and governors.

The afternoon session will consider Natural Area Problems. This will be an open forum to which the Chapters have been invited to send representatives.

On Tuesday morning there will be a symposium on the Use of Natural Areas. The speakers will discuss the topic from the standpoint of Education, Research, Public Use, and Management.

A later announcement will provide more information about program, field trips, and facilities. Campus rates will be \$2.50 per person in double rooms, and \$3 for single rooms. There will be both dining service and cafeterias. There are also several motels close to University Park, with camping possible in nearby State Parks.

PROBLEMS DISCUSSION

The Annual Meeting will feature a discussion of major problems affecting nature preservation. Although Chapters have been alerted and officers may represent some of them, audience participation is expected. Questions such as the following will be posed:

What are the several more pressing vegetative types in your area toward which preservation should be directed? What can be done locally, or nationally, to stimulate their preservation?

Should the Conservancy prepare a list of the vegetative types or conditions toward which the Conservancy should direct its energies, or should it proceed (as now) to take advantage of any situation that arises without regard to the need of saving a particularly endangered type?

Should Chapters be asked to seek out a particular or limited vegetative type or condition in their area and give preference to it, despite local desires to acquire something which may already be represented in several other preserves elsewhere?

Should we endeavor to raise endowment funds at the time of acquiring an area or should we devote our energies now to setting the areas aside, letting the management and maintenance problems take care of themselves for the time being?

What "management" problems on nature preserves need special attention by the Committee on Natural Area Management? (Hunting, pasturage, fishing, fire, trespass, drainage, trails, etc.)

Should we establish a minimum size for a nature preserve? What might be considered a "desirable" size of a preserve taking into account management, protection, cost, location, type, etc.?

There are constant encroachments upon nature preserves, parklands, and other similar types of natural reservations: what can and should Nature Conservancy do to prevent these, or to head off the pressures? What special measures should be taken, and how?

What suggestions can be advanced whereby the Chapters can be helped to carry out an acquisition program? Is there anything the Board can or should do?

What can the central office do to stimulate or aid in Chapter activities?

Can suggestions be offered as to methods and procedures to aid in acquiring lands or in the conduct of Conservancy programs?

Are there any local tax problems to which direct attention of the Conservancy should be given? Are there any recommendations to others as to how best to handle tax exemption?

What opportunities are there and what can be done to stimulate the establishment of nature preserves in the various large private land holdings in your local area? For example: Private land owners such as Mining Companies are often not interested in surface conditions; Lumber & Paper Companies, Farmers & Ranchers may own "worthless" or unworkable lands; Utilities, Industries, Investment Companies may hold lands of little interest to them.

What can be done locally to take advantage of opportunities to have Natural Areas set aside on the various types of available public lands (Federal, State, or County)?

Mr. Donald B. Stough of Vienna, Virginia, has been appointed Executive Director of Nature Conservancy, at the June meeting of the Board of Governors. He takes office on July 20.

Mr. Stough comes to the central office after a wealth of experience in teaching and journalism, industrial engineering, and related administrative activities. For the past nine years he has been in Washington, D. C., in charge of the natural resources section for the Air Corps. Mr. Stough is well acquainted with outdoor America through participation in wilderness trips, and in other ways.

Mr. Stough replaces Mr. Edward N. Munns, who has been serving in a temporary capacity. Mr. Munns will return to California and has consented to serve again on the Western Advisory Board. He was Chairman of the group for several years before coming to Washington.

CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

Fellowships in conservation or related fields are available, until November, 1959, in the National Wildlife Federation in amounts of \$500 and \$1,000. All inquiries should be directed to the Federation office, 232 Carroll St., N. W., Washington 12, D. C.

NATURAL AREAS AT HOWARD COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama, has authorized the Biology Department to utilize 60 acres of College land as a natural area. The land is in three separate but adjacent tracts.

The first, 16 acres, is a moist forest; the second, 28 acres of upland, is mostly oak-hickory; the third, 16 acres, is similar to the oak-hickory area but has a greater variety of plants. The first two areas will be used for research primarily, the third area as a teaching aid. Later it will be made available for general nature education activities. As no other comparable tract is available in the region, it should become a mecca for students and others.

The area has been a dream of many years of Dr. H. A. McCullough of the Department of Biology, who is in general charge of the activity. He is raising funds for the protection of the area and the development of a nature trail. Dr. McCullough has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy.

HAWAII PLANS FOR PARKS

Hawaii, our newest state, will begin its new status with a well considered State Park plan. A report on the park needs of the area was prepared by the Territorial Planning Office in cooperation with the Hawaiian Board of Agriculture and Forestry, with the assistance of the National Park Service.

At present, Hawaii has 13 parks, two "protected" areas, two lookouts, two hunting camps, and one historical display. The total park area is 5,847 acres. The largest park is Kokee Park on Kauai with 4,500 acres. Palaa Park on Molokai Island has 240 acres. The island of Hawaii has three parks; Kauai three, and Oahu two. Hawaii and Maui also each have a National Park.

The recommended park program, proposed for full development in 1965, includes 48 parks with an aggregate area of 56,950 acres. For the 1959-61 fiscal period, an expenditure of \$817,000 is proposed; for the 1961-65 period an additional \$1,670,000.

Governor Rockefeller of New York has signed a bill to preserve the wetlands on Long Island. The measure authorizes the State Conservation Department to enter into cooperative agreements with Long Island towns and counties to preserve wetlands dedicated to conservation. It applies to the 600 miles of shoreline and hundreds of small municipally-owned islands mostly along the south shore.

The Long Island wetlands are unique in their recreational and esthetic aspects. Because Long Island lies across the Atlantic Flyway, the wetlands provide both resting and wintering grounds for many migratory birds. These areas are also valuable commercially, as they provide seedbeds for shellfish and spawning grounds for fish.

PADRE ISLAND ENGULFED IN TEXAS

The attempt to get a State authorization to make a national park out of Padre Island failed when the Texas Legislature adjourned without taking action. Early in the session, efforts by the Texas Chapter of Nature Conservancy and by others supporting Senate Bill 4 failed to get favorable consideration. Later, the legislature consequently, would not take action to bring the bill to the floor.

Padre Island is a barrier reef, 117 miles long and varying in width from an eighth of a mile to two full miles. It contains about 100,000 acres. Two state parks are at the extremes. The narrow island parallels the Texas mainland, being separated from it by the Laguna Madre.

Padre Island was recommended for a public seashore recreation area in the survey of such sites on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts by the National Park Service. The survey report said: "The 98-mile stretch of undeveloped beach on Padre Island presents an opportunity for beach recreation of a type unmatched by any other area on the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts."

ISLAND BEACH STUDY COMPLETED

A study initiated and partially supported by the Nature Conservancy has been completed and published. This study of the vegetation of Island Beach State Park in New Jersey was published in the January issue of Ecological Monographs. The author, William E. Martin, who did the work while at Rutgers, is now in the Botany Department of the University of Minnesota.

UNIQUE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Man's industrial development may occasionally have wildlife benefits. The square mile settling basin of the phosphate mine of Armour and Company at Bartow, Florida, is now used as a residence by wading birds.

Several years ago the area was surrounded by a dyke and the sludge was pumped in. This killed the trees. The wood ibis, our only North American stork, which has declined 85% over the past decade, has used the dead trees for nesting sites to such an extent that the area has become a thriving rookery.

LITTER LAWS STRENGTHENED

New Hampshire recently amended previous legislation to advance the litter fine to \$100. Connecticut broadened anti-litter highway law so \$50 fine would include state parks, forest and beaches. West Virginia upped its fine from \$5 - \$50 to \$100 - \$500. Vermont stiffened its \$10 "litterbug" penalty to a \$50 fine, with \$200 fine for subsequent offenses.

The Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company has given 20,000 acres to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. These lands lie in the watershed of the Little Eau Pleine River, a tributary of the Wisconsin River south of Wausau. To be known as the George W. Mead Wildlife Area, the region is to be used for wildlife conservation.

The place was badly treated in the past. Once the home of giant white pine on the ridges and wonderful hardwoods in the lowlands and swamps, it was completely cut over. Land speculators and promoters organized a drainage district to promote farming. Ox-bows and switch-backs were straightened and the river was made into a canal. With the failure of farming there, the land became marsh, swamp and brush.

Reservoirs are now planned to restore the water levels. Cover manipulation will be undertaken. With food and more desirable shelter provided, it is expected that waterfowl, prairie chickens, deer, and other animals will make the former woodland their home in increasing numbers.

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BY-LAW CHANGES

The Committee on By-Laws on May 29 recommended certain changes in the By-Laws of the Nature Conservancy. These changes, approved by the Board of Governors at its June 20 meeting, will be voted upon at the 1959 Annual Meeting of the Conservancy on August 31. The Committee was composed of Elting Arnold, Conrad Chapman, and Robert J. Hamerslag, Chairman.

The material shown in parenthesis is to be omitted; the new material is underscored. Any member comment may be sent the national office in Washington.

ARTICLE III - Membership:--Section 2. Classes

b) Regular. Individuals or organizations contributing (three) five dollars or more per year, etc.

c) Life. Individuals making a single contribution of (\$100) \$200 for the general purposes of the Conservancy.

f) Cooperating. Delete, as unnecessary and in fact ill-conceived.

Section 3. Duration. Honorary and life members shall hold membership for life. Regular members shall hold membership for (one year) the calendar year, provided that new members joining after September 30 shall hold membership, without further contribution, until the end of the following year. Patron and project (cooperating) members shall hold membership for such periods of not less than one year as may be designated by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VI - Officers:--Section 2. President. The President shall be the senior officer of the Conservancy and shall have general responsibility for the functioning of the Conservancy between meetings of the Board of Governors or the Executive Committee. Etc.

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations and Elections:--Section 1. Nominations. (Second sentence) Nominations for any office may also be made (by any member) by letter to the Secretary signed by at least ten members eligible to vote at the annual meeting. Etc.

ARTICLE IX - Meetings:--Section 3. Quorums. Twenty members (or proxies) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the membership of the Conservancy.

Section 4. Proxies. The Board of Governors may make provision for the use of proxies to vote on any question which may come before a meeting of the membership, excepting election of officers and governors.

ARTICLE X - Fiscal Policies:--Section 4. Audit. There shall be an annual audit of central office accounts by an (independent) certified public accountant. Etc.

Mr. Robert Doerr of Rolla, Missouri, writes about Carroll Cave, one of several in Missouri that hold appeal for those who would save them from vandalism.

"I visited Carroll Cave recently with Dr. Hawksley. It is truly amazing with respect to its immensity, its beautiful formations, its bat population, and its general aura of mystery.

The cave contains some of the finest formations in the State. These are subject to instant despoilation by just one vandal. They are pure white affairs in a cave that simply abounds in mud. Because the mud is so deep and so treacherous, it is not an easy cave to negotiate, and there are uninteresting stretches of a mile or more to be sloshed through. Because of the mud, I don't believe it is likely to be commercialized, but spelunkers are going in and often. Anything can happen under such circumstances. Such a cave as this should be saved."

PARK AREAS RECOMMENDED

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments has recommended nine areas as parks to Interior Department Secretary Fred A. Seaton. It recommended the Secretary report favorably on measures now in Congress to establish national shoreline areas at Cape Cod, Mass.; Padre Island, Texas; Indiana Dunes, Ind.; and Oregon Dunes, Ore. Other recommendations favored three additional areas for inclusion in the National Park System: Wheeler Peak-Lehman Caves Region of the Snake River, Nevada; Hubbell Trading Post, Canado, Arizona; and a 34,000-acre tract of tall grass prairie near Manhattan, Kansas.

"JOHN MUIR, NATURALIST"

Most members of Nature Conservancy know of John Muir but know little about him. Yet it was this foreign-born prophet who made America conscious of its treasures in mountains, forests, and waters. It took the writings of this bearded Scotsman to arouse America so that much of our great wilderness areas was saved from commercialism.

An effort is now being made by the John Muir Memorial Association to save the Muir home, and to restore it. Today it stands lonely, shabby, and ghostly among the neglected and unkept remnants of his world-gathered trees and shrubs. Even Muir's grave is in a little private cemetery at the end of a dusty orchard lane. What he gave in terms of Yosemite Valley, the Muir Glacier, the national parks and our national forests cannot be measured. Yet, his home and grave in Martinez is all but forgotten.

A recent little book "John Muir, Naturalist" will bring him to you in a fashion you will never forget.

ISLAND BEACH, NEW JERSEY

Island Beach is open to bathers. The first unit of 12 designed to handle 3,000 visitors a day is in operation. It, and its companion facilities, are to be in the middle third of the twelve-mile Island Beach peninsula. According to original plans, the northern portion, where holly is the predominant species, would be a nature preserve. The southern section is to be a bird sanctuary. How long these reservations, which have only an interested minority to protect them, will be able to stand the pressure of our increased urban population, remains to be seen.

Governor R. B. Meyner wrote Theodore M. Edison of West Orange, on April 7, 1959: "You are absolutely correct when you warn that maintaining the natural beauty of Island Beach will be a large task. We believe, however, that this public asset, located midway on the coast of the Nation's most urban state, can and must be opened to the public.

"Our plan is to do this without destroying the Park as a natural preserve and place of solitude and rest for our people."

JUNE MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors met at the Briarcliff Guest House at Pine Plains, N.Y., on June 20. The meeting, at which 16 Governors and several guests attended, lasted from 9 a.m. till 2 a.m. It was broken by a lawn supper given by the Thompson Pond Project Committee, and a town meeting to help emphasize the project. The Board took action on many matters including the following:

Appointed Donald B. Stough as Executive Director.

Approved changes in the Conservancy By-Laws.

Changed the name and area of the Texas Chapter.

Approved a change in membership so that members could be affiliated with a chapter of their choosing.

Approved asking the membership to recognize the deep devotion and interest of Heath Angelo, James W. Apperson, Mrs. Anna Butler, F. R. Cope, and Theodore M. Edison by making them Honorary Members of the Nature Conservancy.

Accepted resignation of Dr. Albert M. Fuller of Milwaukee from the Board with deep regrets.

Approved report of Nominating Committee, which renominated Ross for President, Arnold for Secretary, and Gravatt for Treasurer, and nominated Conrad Chapman for Vice President, renominated 6 present Governors, the present Vice President, and four new members to the Board.

Approved making persons who contribute \$1,000 or more in money or property for the general purposes of the Conservancy, patrons for the year and life members.

Approved placing money received for life membership directly into the Endowment Fund with annual apportionment of their minimal membership fees to Chapters.

Approved making allocations to Participating Organizations on the basis of equal cost of appropriate membership.

Agreed to oppose the proposed Adirondack Northway.

Ratified signing by the Long Island Chapter officers of an easement for a pipe line at Kings Point Pond, N.Y.

Reaffirmed decision that Chapters will have responsibility for management, protection, and administration of all nature preserves in the Chapter area under general policies of the Nature Conservancy unless Board of Governors makes other arrangements.

Approved the incorporation of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy and transferred Frederick C. Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog) to it.

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950, the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy; Incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which thirteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 20 nature preserves in nine states, having an area of some 2,500 acres. These range in size from one acre to 1,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in six additional states, the total area of which is about 8,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of \$3 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of \$100 or more to life membership, and one of \$1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

Approved a 40-acre tract, Kenyon Woods, along the Zumbro River as a project of the Minnesota Chapter.

Approved lease of Black Chasm Cave, Volcano, Calif., as a special project.

Approved development of a 1,000-acre Litchfield Co. project, Conn.

Approved establishment of a special project committee for Cranesville Swamp project, W. Va. and Md., with a loan of \$5,000.

Approved expansion of Dome Island project, N.Y., to include nearby mainland areas.

Considered in great detail, and approved the rewritten policy manual for the use of Chapters.

Rejected all colophon entries as unsuitable.

Approved the 1960 Budget of \$75,000 for the operating expenses of the Conservancy, and an increase of \$100,000 in the Natural Areas Loan Fund.

Established a 1960 fund-raising committee with Dr. Richard H. Goodwin as chairman.

HITS FIRE ANT CONTROLS

The June, 1959, issue of READER'S DIGEST contains an article which exposes damage resulting from the controversial fire ant control program in the South. The article by Robert S. Strother is entitled: "Backfire in the War Against Insects."

Strother discusses the broad field of insect control with emphasis on spruce bud-worm, grasshoppers, white-fringed beetles, sand flies, gnats, Japanese beetles, corn borers, gypsy moths, and bark beetles. Most of the article, however, is devoted to the fire ant problem.

Strother says: "The fire ant is not a serious crop pest; it may not be a crop pest at all." The ant eats other insects, including the cotton boll weevil, and "is a major nuisance, but no more." He documents extensive damage to fish and wildlife resulting from pesticide chemicals.

The article raises many questions about the accumulative effect of pesticide poisons on reproduction of bird and animal life, including aquatic and soil microorganisms, the development of immunity in insects, and hazards to human health. "Doctors are increasingly troubled by the possibility that DDT and its much more poisonous descendants may be responsible for the rise in leukemia, hepatitis, Hodgkin's disease and other degenerative diseases," he reports. Everyone should proceed with caution in the use of chemical pesticides until full results are known.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

2015 Bunker Hill Road, Northeast, Washington 18, D. C.
Western Office: 1711 Grove Street, Berkeley 9, California